

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /120 W

----- 112116

R 030325Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9044

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUPUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 2656

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TH, SN

SUBJ: RICE SUPPLY IN SINGAPORE

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED FEW DAYS AGO SUDDEN TRIP OF FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM TO BANGKOK, ALLEGEDLY TO OBTAIN RTG COMMITMENT REGARDING RICE EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE. SINGAPORE INFLATION RATE, INCLUDING FOOD PRICES AND SPECIFICALLY RICE PRICES, HAS INCREASED SHARPLY IN RECENT MONTHS. ALTHOUGH RICE PRICE IS OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO GOS, NONETHELESS SUDDENNESS OF RAJARATNAM VISIT TO BANGKOK HAS RAISED SOME QUESTIONS LOCALLY WHETHER RICE WAS ONLY THING DISCUSSED THERE. WHEN SUBJECT RAISED BY EMBOFF AT MFA, MFA OFFICIAL STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT SOLE PURPOSE OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S BANGKOK TRIP WAS TO DISCUSS RICE. WHEN EMBASSY OFFICER WONDERED WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO DISPATCH FOREIGN MINISTER, MFA OFFICIAL REITERATED ASSURANCE THAT RICE WAS PURPOSE OF VISIT.

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2. LATER AT CANADIAN NATIONAL DAY, EMBOFF RAISED

SUBJECT WITH THAI AMBASSADOR WHO SAID THAT GOS FINANCE MINISTER HAD CALLED HIM IN SEVERAL DAYS AGO REQUESTING SPECIFIC ASSURANCES OF AVAILABILITY OF THAI RICE FOR SINGAPORE. WHEN THAI AMBASSADOR, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH HIS GOVERNMENT, WAS UNABLE TO GIVE OTHER THAN GENERAL ASSURANCE, GOS APPARENTLY MADE DECISION TO SEND RAJARTNAM, ACCOMPANIED BY FINANCE MINISTRY DEPUTY SECRETARY SITHAWALLA AND INTRACO MANAGING DIRECTOR SIM KEE BOON.

COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL STORIES CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS RECENTLY REASSURING CONSUMERS THAT RICE SUPPLIES ARE ADEQUATE AND ADVISING AGAINST PANIC BUYING. THIS PRESS ATTENTION TO SUBJECT, WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY ENCOURAGED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, PLUS SUDDEN DISPATCH OF RAJARTNAM TO BANGKOK INDICATES REAL CONCERN ON PART OF GOVERNMENT RE ADEQUACY SUPPLY. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, OF ANY IMMEDIATE SHORTAGE OF SUPPLIES. CRONK

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RICE SUPPLY IN SINGAPORE  
**TAGS:** EAGR, TH, SN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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